Terrorism, drug trafficking and black money

*231. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government acknowledges a strong relationship between organised terrorism, drug trafficking and movement of huge black money;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure the required co-ordination among Police, Economic Intelligence, Narcotics Bureau and Income Tax Officials;

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish a Task Force comprising officials from all concerned deoartment; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to use the channels of mass media to educate the people and secure their help in fighting the menance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Certain instances of smuggling of sizeable quantities of weapons, explosives, narcotic drugs and counterfeit Indian currency notes by smugglers operating in connivance with terrorists have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Regional Economic Intelligence Committees (REICs) set up by the Ministry of Finance have been in existence since 1996 to bring about operational co-ordination amongst the Intelligence and Investigating agencies dealing with fiscal offences in the Region and for ensuring exchange of information on important cases.

An Inter-Agency Group on Counter Terrorism, comprising representatives of Minstries of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence, Finance, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and concerned Government agencies, has also been set up in October, 2001 by the Ministry of External Affairs.

(d) Educating people on the facts of terrorism and other anti-national activities and seeking their help in fighting them is an on-going process.